



## Safer at Home Cairns

The Safer at Home Cairns program assists women to increase their safety and the safety of their children while remaining in their home after an abusive relationship has ended.

This can be done by making small changes to a property to enhance safety, as well as implementing a safety plan and accessing support.

The Safer at Home Cairns program can assist women to:

- ◆ Use a Domestic Violence Protection Order effectively
- ◆ Provide crisis counseling, support and information
- ◆ Discuss the best option in terms of safety i.e. staying at home, going to a shelter or making another arrangement
- ◆ Discuss safety plans and plan practical aspects of staying safely at home
- ◆ Conduct a risk assessment and safety audit
- ◆ Upgrade certain aspects of the property and make suggestions to assist women to feel safe
- ◆ Provide personal duress alarms, home security cameras and smart phone apps (where assessed as meeting program guidelines)

It is important to note that the purpose of the Safer at Home program is not to repair damage that may have occurred due to an act of domestic violence **but** to help increase safety.

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## Am I eligible for Safer at Home Cairns?

In order to be eligible for the Safer at Home Cairns program, a current Domestic Violence Protection Order needs to be in place with either of the following conditions included:

- ◆ The respondent is not to enter or remain in any place where the aggrieved is living
- ◆ The respondent is to vacate the premises where the aggrieved and respondent used to live together (Ouster Condition).

In some individual cases, the need for a DVPO may be waived (subject to meeting additional program guidelines).

## What Can be done?

The following are some examples of ways that the Safer at Home Cairns program may help to make a property more secure. A risk assessment and safety audit will be conducted to discuss which options would best suit the home and what would be appropriate for each person's situation.

- ◆ Lock change
- ◆ Provide window locks and alarms
- ◆ Install sensor lighting to illuminate the property
- ◆ Install finger guards on screen doors
- ◆ Discuss padlocks and chains for gates
- ◆ Install security screens on windows
- ◆ Personal duress alarms
- ◆ Home security cameras

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